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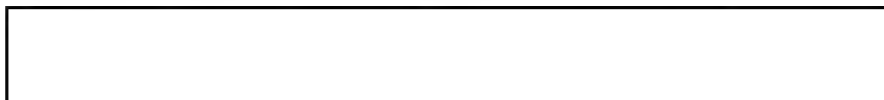
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West Germany - UK: Bonn may press the British to back down from their all or nothing tactics on Common Market membership.

German State Secretary Lahr stated on 3 January that Britain's persistence in demanding negotiations on nothing less than full membership in the European Communities made little sense after the last Council session. Lahr said the British should accept a solution whereby they could initially join the community's customs union and agricultural system but would not, during this "first stage," participate in community institutions. The Germans would like to have US help in urging the British to come around to this new approach.

Bonn is apparently concerned that Britain's present unbending approach will get London nowhere. The Germans have not spelled out, however, how they would win over the French to such a "staging" arrangement or, for that matter, convince the British to forgo participating in community institutions.

London has previously ruled out such arrangements on the grounds that they are politically unacceptable and impractical. It is likely the British will continue to do so, at least until they see the result of their current efforts to get consultations between London and the Five started.

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NOTES

Cyprus: The Greek general staff asserted yesterday that, by 16 January, Athens will have withdrawn 7,000 troops, including the Greek commander, from Cyprus. The Greeks implied that this is the total of their "illegal" forces on the island. The Turks, however, are almost certain to contend that the total is substantially higher. Meanwhile, Turkish complaints about the slow pace of the withdrawal may be muted by the arrival this week of more transports to pick up Greek "illegals."

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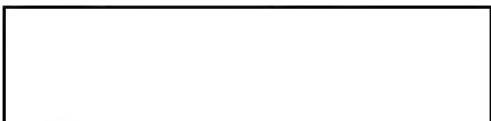
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